



## **INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS**

### **Montana Teacher Leaders in the Arts Initiative 2016-2017**

**Deadline for applicants: Friday, March 18, 2016**

The Montana Arts Council (MAC) and the Office of Public Instruction (OPI) are teaming up to offer Montana Teacher Leaders in the Arts (TLA), a professional development initiative for K-12 educators across the state. Through this innovative program, MAC and the OPI seek to develop teacher leaders who can support other teachers statewide in integrating the arts into their classrooms.

After years of struggle with cutbacks in budget and programs nationally, there is renewed interest in the impact the arts have on learning. With current research supporting the numerous benefits of arts education and 72% of business leaders identifying creativity as the number one skill they are seeking when hiring, (<http://goo.gl/vNxBNp>), MAC and the OPI see an opportunity to give arts education a much-needed boost in Montana's public schools. This initiative supports training cohorts of educators to serve as coaches, mentors, and advocates in their schools and communities for an arts-integrated approach to teaching and learning. These educators are Montana's Teacher Leaders in the Arts.

### **Montana Teacher Leaders in the Arts will:**

- Gather arts-based tools to spark creative, engaged, and joyful teaching and learning for all learners, in any classroom environment.
- Study the relationship between arts learning and brain theory.
- Understand how the arts build critical habits of mind that lead to future success in college, careers, and civic life.
- Work collaboratively with other educators to build a curriculum that supports both the arts and other content in an integrated model.
- Advocate for and champion arts learning back in their schools and communities by sharing their knowledge and skills with other educators through field projects.
- Become catalysts for change to create more equitable access to arts learning opportunities for K-12 students in Montana schools.

## **Program Structure:**

The Initiative will include an on-site summer institute, online professional learning opportunities throughout the school year, and support for a field project in the teacher leader's school or region. Program structure includes the following activities:

- **Identification of Teacher Leader candidates** in a competitive application process. Up to 18 candidates will be identified for 2016-2017, representing a cross-section of Montana's various regions and communities.
- **Teacher Leaders in the Arts Summer Institute at Salish Kootenai College with guest faculty** who are established arts education leaders in the state, as well as national guest teaching artists. The dates for the 2016 Summer Institute are June 20-June 29.
  - Topics will include:
    - Multi-Disciplinary Arts Integration Tools and Strategies
    - Brain Theory
    - Building Creative Classrooms
    - STEAM learning
    - Cultural Arts and Indian Education for All
- **Online learning opportunities throughout the school year with master teachers and guest speakers on arts education topics.**
- **Monthly meetings of Teacher Leader candidates in an online professional learning community to share ideas and challenges and offer support.**
- **A stipend for an arts learning field project for each Teacher Leader candidate during the school year.** The project will be planned with the guidance of a mentor from the summer institute faculty.
- **Field projects and their outcomes documented on a website and shared with other Montana educators.**
- **Teacher Leaders candidates "graduate" and take on leadership roles in their schools, local communities, regions and statewide as coaches, mentors and advocates for arts learning in Montana's K-12 public schools.**

### **To apply:**

1. **Fill out and submit the online application here:** <http://goo.gl/forms/uxHkFN28WH>.
2. **Electronically submit your resume or curriculum vitae with two letters of reference to:**  
Emily Kohring, Director of Arts Education  
Montana Arts Council  
[ekohring@mt.gov](mailto:ekohring@mt.gov)

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## **Teacher Leaders in the Arts FAQs**

### **Who can apply for the program?**

- Certified arts specialists in K-12 schools in any discipline.
- K-12 classroom teachers with demonstrated artistic background and/or high comfort level in arts learning.
- Principals and other school administrators.
- Retired teachers who were certified arts specialists.
- Professional teaching artists who demonstrate a significant level of experience in and knowledge of K-12 public education.

### **What is the criteria for selection of Teacher Leader candidates?**

- Three or more years of experience in the K-12 public school system.
- Demonstrated skill and expertise in any of the following artistic disciplines: visual art, media arts, dance, theatre, and music (general, vocal or instrumental).
- A willingness to work collaboratively with educators across grade levels and disciplines to build a curriculum that supports both the arts and other academic content (ELA, math, science, social studies, Indian Education for All, etc.) in an integrated model.
- A willingness to work as an advocate and champion for arts education in your region, promoting equitable access to arts learning in all public schools.
- A willingness to serve as a coach and mentor to K-12 teachers in your region interested in learning more arts-based learning strategies for the classroom.
- Reliable access to technological tools to participate in a blended learning model of online PLCs and interactive webinars throughout the TLA training year.

### **Are there graduate credits or renewal units available?**

Yes, both renewal units for certified teachers and optional graduate credit will be offered through the University of Montana School of Extended Learning.

### **What is the time commitment for Teacher Leader Candidates?**

Teacher Leaders in the Arts candidates must commit to attending the entire Summer Institute, June 20-29, 2016. Beginning in August, 2016 through May, 2017, TLA candidates will commit to a one-hour online professional learning community each month with other cohort members, and a bi-monthly, 90-minute webinar on an arts education-related topic. TLA candidates will also commit to and receive a stipend for a field project, which may involve planning time with an assigned coach/mentor by phone, as well as classroom time with students to execute the planned project.

### **Where will the Summer Institute be held?**

The 2016 Summer Institute will be held at Salish Kootenai College (SKC) in Pablo on the Flathead Reservation. Nestled at the base of the Mission Mountains, SKC has a beautiful campus that allows TLA candidates rich learning opportunities in the culture and history of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes and the many artists who make the Mission Valley home.

### **Does it cost money to participate?**

There is no fee for participants who are selected for the Teacher Leaders in the Arts Initiative. However, travel, meals and lodging are not provided (Candidates will have access to SKC campus housing at \$30/night. Housing includes private rooms with shared kitchen, bath and laundry facilities). Should candidates choose to earn optional UM graduate credits in the program, they are responsible for associated fees.

### **What technology will I need to participate?**

TLA candidates must have access to reliable, high-speed internet and an updated computer or tablet device at home or school in order to participate in the online portion of the Institute.

TLA candidates should also be familiar with (or willing to learn) online tools and social media, including Go to Meeting and other web conference platforms, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and WordPress or similar blogging sites.

### **What are the benefits of becoming a Teacher Leader in the Arts?**

- The opportunity to learn from master arts educators in multiple disciplines from, in and outside the state.
- The opportunity to network and collaborate with colleagues who share a passion for arts learning and all its possibilities.
- The opportunity for rejuvenation as you (re)discover arts-based tools that spark creative, engaged and joyful teaching and learning for you and your students.
- The opportunity to assert yourself as a leader in your school, district, region and statewide as you promote the power of arts learning for all students.

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Montana Arts Council [ekohring@mt.gov](mailto:ekohring@mt.gov)

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